

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for removing spinal cord material from a carcass of an animal comprising:  
  
an elongated flexible tube forming a vacuum casing;  
  
a flexible rotatable shaft extending through said tube and captured therein;  
  
and  
  
a cutting bit attached to a tip end of the shaft and extending from the tube  
  
operable for engaging and breaking down a spinal cord material sufficient  
  
for vacuuming;  
  
where said rotatable shaft is adapted to retract in the vacuum casing and extend  
  
through the vacuum casing extending the cutting bit beyond the vacuum  
  
casing.
2. (original) The apparatus for removing spinal cord material as recited in Claim 1  
where the cutting bit is an auger style bit.
3. (original) The apparatus for removing spinal cord material as recited in Claim 1  
where the cutting bit is a drill style bit.
4. (original) The apparatus for removing spinal cord material as recited in Claim 1  
where the elongated flexible tube is in communication with a vacuum source.
5. (original) The apparatus for removing spinal cord material as recited in Claim 1  
where the rotatable shaft is operably attached to a rotation drive for effecting rotation of  
the shaft and bit.

6. (currently amended) A method for removing spinal cord material from a carcass of an animal comprising the steps of:
- inserting an elongated flexible tube vacuum casing through a spinal channel of a carcass where said tube has a flexible rotatable shaft extending there through and a cutting bit attached to a leading tip end of the rotatable shaft;
- driving rotation of the rotatable shaft and bit attached thereto with a rotation drive for breaking down a spinal cord material;
- retracting in and extending through said vacuum casing the rotatable shaft for engaging and disengaging the spinal cord extending through the spinal channel;
- and
- applying a vacuum for extracting spinal cord material with a vacuum source in communication with the elongated flexible tube vacuum casing.
7. (currently amended) The method for removing spinal cord material as recited in Claim 6 further comprising the steps of:
- inserting a feed line through the spinal ~~[[canal]]~~ channel of an animal carcass where said feed line has a pull chain attached to a trailing edged of the feed line; and
- pulling the feed line and pull chain attached thereto through the spinal channel where said pull chain has linkages of spiral spring cutting head implements.

8. (currently amended) The method for removing spinal cord material as recited in Claim 6 further comprising:
- inserting an elongated tube vacuum casing through the spinal channel of a carcass where said elongated flexible tube has a flexible high pressure tubing extending there through and a high pressure nozzle in fluid communication with said high-pressure tubing and attached to one end of the high pressure tubing for emitting a high pressure jet spray;
- retracting in and extending through said vacuum casing the high pressure tubing for engaging and disengaging a spinal cord in the spinal channel with the high pressure jet spray from the high pressure nozzle;
- emitting the high pressure jet spray at a pressure sufficient to break down the spinal cord material for vacuuming out; and
- applying a vacuum to the flexible tube vacuum casing for extracting the spinal cord material.
9. (original) An apparatus for removing spinal cord material from a carcass of an animal comprising:
- a pull chain having linkages of spiral spring cutting head implements; and
- a feed line attached to an end of the chain for insertion through the spinal canal and pulling the pull chain through.
10. (original) The apparatus for removing spinal cord material as recited in Claim 9 where the pull chain further having linkages of spiral spring cutting head implements with differing diameter cutting edges.

11. (original) The apparatus recited in Claim 9 further comprising:  
a line drive for pulling the feed line and chain through the canal; and  
a sanitization system having high-pressure spray nozzles proximately disposed to  
the pull chain after it exits the carcass operable to spray sanitizer solution  
on the pull chain for sanitizing and removing debris.
12. (original) A method for removing spinal cord material from an animal carcass  
comprising the steps of:  
inserting a feed line through the spinal canal of an animal carcass where said feed  
line has a pull chain attached to a trailing edge of the feed line; and  
pulling the feed line and pull chain attached thereto through the spinal channel  
where said pull chain has linkages of spiral spring cutting head  
implements.
13. (original) The method for removing spinal cord material as recited in Claim 12  
further comprising the steps of:  
sanitizing the pull chain with a sanitizer solution.
14. (currently amended) An apparatus for removing spinal cord material from a  
carcass of an  
animal comprising:  
an elongated flexible tube forming a vacuum casing; and  
a flexible high-pressure tubing extending through said elongated flexible tube and  
captured therein for channeling and delivering fluid under high pressure to  
a high pressure nozzle for emitting a jet spray of fluid sufficient to break

down a spinal cord material for vacuuming through the elongated flexible tube.

where said flexible high pressure tubing is adapted to retract in the vacuum casing and extend through the vacuum casing extending the high pressure nozzle beyond the vacuum casing for engaging and disengaging the spinal cord with the jet spray.

15. (original) The apparatus for removing spinal cord material as recited in Claim 14 further comprising:

A vacuum source in communication with the elongated flexible tube forming a vacuum.

16. (original) The apparatus as recited in Claim 15 further comprising:

a high pressure fluid source in fluid communication with said high-pressure tubing.

17. (currently amended) A method for removing spinal cord material from a carcass of an animal comprising the steps of:

inserting an elongated flexible tube vacuum casing through the spinal channel of a carcass where said elongated flexible tube has a flexible high pressure tubing extending there through and a high pressure nozzle in fluid communication with said high-pressure tubing and attached to one end of the high pressure tubing for emitting a high pressure jet spray;

retracting in and extending through said vacuum casing the high pressure tubing for engaging and disengaging a spinal cord in the spinal channel with the

high pressure jet spray from the high pressure nozzle;

emitting the high pressure jet spray at a pressure sufficient to break down a spinal  
cord material for vacuuming out; and  
applying a vacuum to the flexible tube vacuum casing for extracting the spinal  
cord material.

18. (currently amended) An apparatus for removing spinal cord material from a  
carcass of an

animal comprising:

an elongated flexible tube forming a vacuum casing;

a substantially tubular cutting blade implement having a sharpened leading edge

attached to an end opening of the leading end of the tubing about and

extending from the rim of the opening of the tubing operable for engaging

and breaking down a spinal cord material sufficient for vacuuming.